

PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

‘Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God...’

Matthew 6.33

In the financial year 2016 – 17 we received £191,675. In this current financial year, we have received £208,733 pupil premium funding and up to £7000 LAC funding dependent on spending shown to the Virtual School. The Department for Education has given us the freedom to use the Pupil Premium as we see fit, based upon our knowledge of our pupil needs.

‘It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent, since they are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.’

However, we are accountable for the use of this additional funding.

THE PUPIL PREMIUM

The Pupil Premium is additional funding which is allocated to schools on a basis of the number of pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point over the last six years (known as ‘Ever 6 FSM’). The Pupil Premium is aimed at addressing the current underlying inequalities which exist between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their more affluent peers.

The Pupil Premium also provides funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months and the children of service personnel. The funding currently stands at £935 per eligible pupil with Looked After Children being eligible for £1400 funding. Children of service personnel receive a lower amount of £300.

PURPOSE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to outline how we will ensure that the Pupil Premium allocated to us has an impact on narrowing the attainment gaps which currently exist between our disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

As a school in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are accountable to our parents and school community for how we are using this additional resource to narrow the achievement gaps of our pupils. New measures have been included in the performance tables published annually on a national level, where they capture the achievement of disadvantaged pupils cover pupils covered by the Pupil Premium.

We are aware that under The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012, Schedule 4 there is specified information which has to be published on a school's website. Section 9 of this regulation requires schools to publish 'the amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated.'

We shall publish the above information in an annual report. In meeting this requirement, we will observe our continuing responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998, so that individuals or groups of individuals, including children funded through the Service Premium cannot be identified.

HOW WE WILL MAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE USE OF THE PUPIL PREMIUM

In making decisions on the use of the Pupil Premium we will:

- Ensure that Pupil Premium funding allocated to our school is used solely for its intended purpose.
- Use the latest evidence based research¹ on proven strategies which work to narrow the attainment gaps and adapt these as necessary to meet the needs of our pupils.
- Be transparent in our reporting of how we have used the Pupil Premium, so that our parents, interested stakeholders and Ofsted are fully aware of how this additional resource has been used to make a difference.
- Encourage take up of FSM by working proactively with our parents and carers in a sensitive and supportive manner and to remove any potential barriers or stigma attached to claiming FSM. In doing so, we also recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the lives of their children.
- Be mindful of the fact that eligibility and take up of FSM does not equate with pupils being considered to be of 'low ability' because of their social circumstances.
- Ensure there is robust monitoring and evaluation in place to account for the use of the Pupil Premium, by the school and Board of Directors.
- Recognise the fact that FSM pupils are not a homogeneous group and cover a wide range of needs. As such the strategies we use to raise attainment will take these group and individual needs fully into account.
- Use high quality teaching and learning as the preferred way to narrow the gaps in attainment in the first instance. We will also use high quality interventions with proven evidence of impact to assist our pupils who need additional support in a time limited way.

¹ Such as The Sutton Trust – Education Endowment Foundation, Teaching and Learning Toolkit <http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/> which is regularly updated & The Institute of Effective Education at University of York, <https://www.york.ac.uk/iee/>, which researches 'what works' in teaching and learning and promotes the use of evidence in education policy and practice.

- Use the Pupil Premium for all year groups not just those taking examinations at the end of the year.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLICY

This policy is part of our commitment to reducing inequalities in outcomes and promoting the inclusive nature of the work we do at our school.

In developing this policy, we have taken into account our statutory responsibilities in meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act 2010 requires us as a public organisation to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and two specific duties. The overlap with our Equality Objectives 2017/18 is in relation to how we are meeting the needs of our pupils who are covered under the 'protected characteristics' of the Equality Act. Some of these pupils, especially minority ethnic, English as an additional language, Special Educational Needs and pupils with disabilities can suffer from higher rates of disadvantage and therefore can have higher rates of eligibility from FSM. Where this is the case, we shall take these additional needs into account.

When developing this Pupil Premium Policy, we have also taken into account the Ofsted Inspection Framework updates 2017, which place a strong focus on improving the learning and progress of different groups and on narrowing gaps in standards. We also note that Ofsted has a statutory duty to report on the outcomes and provision for pupils who are disadvantaged and those who have special educational needs.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES AND DOCUMENTATION

Although this policy is the key document outlining our approach to narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement for our disadvantaged pupils, we will, however ensure that information about our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 for other pupils for whom narrowing the gap remains an issue but are not covered by the Pupil Premium, are also included in key documents such as our school development plan, self-evaluation review, the school prospectus, school web site and newsletters.

There will also be references to disadvantaged pupils in our behaviour, admissions, SEN and anti-bullying policies, as well as minutes of meetings involving governors, the whole staff, and the senior leadership team and school council.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We expect all members of our school community, particularly staff and Directors to be committed to raising standards and narrowing the attainment gaps for our pupils.

The Head and Senior Leadership Team

The Head is responsible for implementing this policy. Under the leadership of the Headteacher, leaders at all levels will ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities in narrowing the gaps of our pupils. The Senior Leadership Team will also ensure that staff are given appropriate support and relevant professional development opportunities to accelerate pupil's progress and attainment. Through performance management arrangements, they will make sure narrowing the gaps is a priority area of focus for the school.

It will be the responsibility of the Head to include the following information in their reports for Governors:

- The progress made towards narrowing the gap, by year group, for disadvantaged pupils
- An outline of the provision that has been made since the last academic year
- An evaluation of the cost effectiveness, in terms of the progress made by the pupils receiving a particular provision, when compared with other forms of support.

Mrs C Humble, Head Teacher, has the day to day responsibility for coordinating the implementation of this policy and monitoring outcomes. She has informed knowledge of evidence based research of 'what works' and 'how' this works in narrowing the gaps. She knows how to customise this research to fit the needs of our pupils and school context.

Mrs S Skilbeck, School Business Manager, will monitor the use of the Pupil Premium on a monthly basis to track the allocation and use of Pupil Premium funding. She will also check to see that it is providing value for money.

Teaching and Support Staff will:

- Maintain the highest expectations of all pupils and not equate disadvantage of circumstance with 'low ability'.
- Promote an inclusive and collaborative ethos in their classrooms which enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to thrive.
- Plan and deliver curricula and lessons to a high standard and support the acceleration of progress in learning, so that gaps can be narrowed and improvements maintained.
- Support disadvantaged groups of pupils in their class through differentiated planning and teaching, especially for those who find aspects of learning difficult and are in danger of falling behind.
- Keep up-to-date with teaching strategies and research, which have proven track record in narrowing the gaps in attainment and achievement.

We will provide opportunities for staff to engage in a range of professional development opportunities suited to their particular needs and role. This will support them in implementing successful strategies to accelerate progress of pupils and narrow the gaps.

Board of Directors

Our governing Board has an important role in ensuring our school complies with legislation and that this policy, along with its specific stated actions for narrowing the gaps is implemented.

Mrs Josie Wilson, is responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy as the Pupil Premium Director.

After each Assessment Point, a review of pupil progress will be shared with the Board of Directors. These Assessment Points happen frequently throughout the academic year and these reviews will enable the Directors to keep our work in narrowing the gaps under review so that they can monitor the use of the Pupil Premium. In monitoring and evaluating the work of the school in relation to the Pupil Premium, the Board will take into account a range of information, including quantitative (data on progress and attainment) and qualitative (case studies, views, surveys etc.) data as evidence of impact.

MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE POLICY

Our work in relation to the Pupil Premium will be reviewed on an ongoing basis, and as appropriate, to ensure it is having the intended impact in narrowing the gaps. This will allow us to make adjustments if particular strategies are not working well, rather than leaving things to the end of the year.

Our Pupil Premium Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments will be made to it according to the impact the school is having in narrowing the gaps. It will also take into consideration any increased funding that may become available under the Pupil Premium Grant.

We recognise the importance of context and will evaluate new strategies as robustly as possible to ensure that the approaches we are using have the desired effect. In order to do this effectively, we will where relevant, undertake on-going evaluations of the strategies we are using.

The school has also decided to have an external Pupil Premium review every second year. The last external review was undertaken by Stockton Local Authority in June 2017. The next external review will therefore be sought in the summer term of 2019.

DISSEMINATING THE POLICY

This Pupil Premium policy along with the details of actions will be published:

- On our website (with paper copies available on request in the school office)
- In the staff handbook and as part of induction for new staff
- As a summary in the school brochure

We will also use other methods and occasions such as parents' evenings and assemblies, as appropriate to share information about the Pupil Premium.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

Any appeals against this policy can be made through the Trusts' complaints procedure.

Date Reviewed: July 2017

For next Review: July 2018